

STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIAFinal Results of Cereal and Hay Harvest, 1946-47.

There still are a few minor wheat districts where the completion of the collection has been delayed and a number of odd returns from farmers in other districts outstanding but, rather than delay the final results, a safe estimate has been made for all these and hence the totals now submitted may be accepted subject to slight alteration.

RAINFALL, ETC. 1946 was an abnormal season from the viewpoint of rainfall. During January to March, which three months are prior to the generally understood cereal-growing season, the average rainfall for the agricultural areas was 749 points compared with the 41 years' mean of only 201. The next three months April to June were below the mean with 370 (462), July was above with 258 (191) and August to October were considerably below with 251 (481) while November was above again with 131 (96) points. The total for the period April to October was only 879 (1,134) points while for April to November it was only 1,010 (1,230) points.

The dry period from August to October had a gradually deteriorating effect on the crops and reduced the prospective yields by many million bushels.

The heavier rainfall in November was too late to benefit the crops, especially as a succession of sultry days led to the multiplication of red rust spores. Also windy weather damaged many barley and oats crops but did not affect the wheat crops appreciably.

At the time of issuing the December Official Forecast, it was somewhat difficult to assess the effects of the disabilities but the final figures now issued are fairly close to the forecast. The comparisons are:- Wheat 27,906,001 - 28,150,000, Barley 8,424,061 - 8,100,000, Oats 2,780,364 - 2,650,000 bushels and Hay for these three cereals 379,353 - 385,000 tons.

NOTE:- 1946-47 particulars are shown hereunder with those for 1945-46 in parentheses. When comparing the yields, the April-November rainfall of 1,010 points in 1946 (1,074 points in 1945) must be remembered. For statistical purposes, the weight of the bags is not counted as grain.

WHEAT:- The yield of 27,906,001 (21,033,841) bushels averaged 11.08 (9.72) bushels per acre from an area of 2,518,948 (2,165,004) acres including areas failed. Including wheat for hay and green forage the total area was 2,662,150 (2,407,253) acres.

WHEAT AND FALLOW:- On fallowed land, 1,325,730 acres of wheat produced 23,400,934 bushels averaging 12.82 bushels per acre. On not fallowed land, there were 693,218 acres with 4,505,067 bushels averaging 6.50 bushels. The average yields the previous season were 11.09 bushels on fallow land and 6.77 on land not fallowed.

BARLEY:- The yield totalled 8,424,061 (7,566,146) bushels and the average per acre was 16.78 (17.12). 7,889,544 bushels were reported to be 2 row (malting) and 534,517 bushels 6 row. The acreage for grain was 502,005 (441,830) and for all purposes 520,027 (479,384). Prior to the severe winds on the 22nd November, it had been thought that the record yield of 11,714,012 bushels in 1941-42 might be exceeded.

OATS:- The yield totalled 2,780,364 (3,178,450) bushels and the average per acre was 11.01 (8.60). The acreage for grain was 252,325 (369,733) acres, and for all purposes 485,736 (686,128). The oats crop had been reduced considerably through shattering from the severe winds in November.

CEREALS ETC. USED ON FARMS. Farmers reported that they used the following quantities of cereals, etc: on their farms during the twelve months ended March 1947. For seed - Wheat 2,682,963, Barley 647,134 and Oats 552,879 bushels. For feed for livestock and poultry - Wheat 1,453,416, Barley 961,986, Oats 425,544 bushels and Hay and Chaff 222,773 tons. Of the wheat produced in 1946-47, it was reported that 2,704,005 bushels were retained on the farms for seed and 752,661 bushels for feed.

RYE:- There has been a decided increase in the areas cropped with rye. In 1935-36 there were only 1,680 acres and for 1946-47 a total of 31,126 of which 21,753 (33,311) were for grain yielding 69,754 (140,116) bushels.

FIELD PEAS:- 121,557 (99,993) bushels from 11,371 (14,033) acres.

HAY:- 329,307 (484,060) acres were cut for hay, wheaten being 134,391 (224,170) and oaten 159,681 (211,361) acres. The total yield was 432,955 (521,957) tons, wheaten being 182,213 (249,064) and oaten 193,105 (203,639).

ACREAGES:- The following table shows the total areas under wheat, barley and oats for all purposes (grain, hay or green fodder) for 1930-31 - the maximum year for wheat; for 1939-40 - the maximum year for barley and oats; for 1943-44 - the lowest areas in recent years; for 1945-46 - showing the increase during the next 2 seasons; for 1946-47 - the season just passed; and for 1947-48 representing the areas that farmers indicated they intended to sow when particulars of the recent harvest were being collected during the past 3 or 4 months. Particulars of actual sowings are being collected at present to ascertain whether or not farmers put in the full areas that they had intended. Although heavy rains fell over most of the State during March, there was a distinctly dry period between early April and late June. This period was particularly dry in the Upper Eyre Peninsula, Upper North and Upper Murray Mallee Districts. Good rains have fallen since.

<u>Season</u>	<u>Wheat</u>	<u>Barley</u>	<u>Oats</u>	<u>Total</u>
1930-31 acres	4,507,213	267,369	519,300	5,293,882
1939-40 "	2,948,110	558,559	834,793	4,341,462
1943-44 "	1,675,778	304,382	563,565	2,543,725
1945-46 "	2,407,253	479,384	686,128	3,572,765
1946-47 "	2,662,150	520,027	485,736	3,667,913
1947-48 "	2,600,000	575,000	600,000	3,775,000

VARIETIES SOWN:- Particulars of the acreages sown with the principal varieties of wheat, barley and oats were collected this season for the first time since 1941-42 and details will be published later.

THE ATTACHED STATEMENTS show details of 1946-47 crops in Statistical Divisions and also the 1946-47 totals compared with the five previous seasons.

Statistical Office, Adelaide.
31st July, 1947

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STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

FINAL RESULTS OF CEREALS AND HAY, 1946-47

1. ACREAGE CROPPED

Divisions	Total Cereals Peas, Hay Forage	Grain			Hay Total	Fed Off Areas (total)
		Wheat	Barley	Oats		
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
Central	904,832	443,379	249,758	36,568	128,036	36,927
Lower North	812,511	600,877	106,251	26,407	57,451	19,093
Upper North	223,558	202,826	1,719	2,700	13,095	2,775
South Eastern	122,701	52,250	12,950	22,944	28,165	5,316
Western	974,585	686,890	60,133	128,696	54,039	44,203
Murray Mallee	719,322	532,726	71,194	35,010	48,521	13,486
Total 1946-47	3,757,509	2,518,948	502,005	252,325	329,307	121,800
Total 1945-46	3,708,365	2,165,004	441,830	369,733	484,060	191,501
Increase or Decrease	49,144	353,944	60,175	-117,408	-154,753	-69,701

2. PRODUCTION OF GRAIN AND HAY

Divisions	GRAIN						Hay Total Tons
	Wheat		Barley		Oats		
	Bush	Aver.	Bush	Aver.	Bush.	Aver.	
Central	6,926,738	15.62	4,662,508	18.67	559,656	15.30	209,545
Lower North	8,842,420	14.70	1,616,028	15.13	362,989	13.78	75,209
Upper North	1,828,971	9.02	23,146	13.46	22,362	8.28	14,010
South Eastern	977,234	18.70	235,311	18.17	466,880	20.35	42,497
Western	5,201,018	7.57	1,046,066	17.39	1,076,421	8.36	50,195
Murray Mallee	4,129,620	7.75	841,002	11.81	292,056	8.34	41,499
Total 1946-47	27,906,001	11.08	8,424,061	16.78	2,780,364	11.01	432,955
Total 1945-46	21,033,841	9.72	7,566,146	17.12	3,178,450	8.60	521,957
Increase	6,872,160	1.36	857,915	-0.34	-398,086	2.41	-89,002

3. FIVE YEARS' COMPARISON

Year	W H E A T			Rainfall Agric. April- Nov. Inches	BARLEY Yield Bush.	OATS Yield Bush.
	Area	Yield	Aver. per Acre			
	Acres	Bush.	Bush.			
1941-42	2,325,717	30,511,112	13.12	11.08	11,714,002	3,800,229
1942-43	2,009,027	36,525,459	18.18	16.11	6,020,364	3,365,025
1943-44	1,533,816	20,690,471	13.49	10.68	5,057,594	2,294,359
1944-45	1,623,145	9,244,211	5.70	8.84	3,184,831	1,316,285
1945-46	2,165,004	21,033,841	9.72	10.74	7,566,146	3,178,450
MEAN	1,931,342	23,601,019	12.22	11.49	6,708,587	2,790,869
1946-47	2,518,948	27,906,001	11.08	10.10	8,424,061	2,780,364